

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /065 W

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R 101650Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1995

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, PT

SUBJ: GOP REASSERTS TIMORESE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

1. MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS  
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS IN MAR 8 EXPRESSO INTERVIEW:

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER TIMORESE INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN  
COMPROMISED BY GOP UNDERSTANDING WITH AUSTRALIA OR INDONESIA,  
SANTOS REPLIED "THERE IS NOT, NEVER WAS, NOR COULD THERE BE A  
DEAL WITH THE INDONESIAN, AUSTRALIAN, OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT  
WHICH WOULD PUT IN RISK OR NEGATE IN PRINCIPLE OUR CONSISTENT  
LINE IN DECOLONIZATION, WHICH IS ABSOLUTE RESPECT FOR THE  
WILL OF THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF TIMOR AS DETERMINED  
BY DIRECT, UNIVERSAL CONSULTATION WITH THE PEOPLE."

3. SANTOS STRONGLY DEFENDED GOP GOOD FAITH IN DECOLONIZATION  
PROCESS AND POINTED TO THE FIVE ACCORDS ALREADY SIGNED WITH  
OTHER FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES AS PROOF. SANTOS SAID SOME  
COLONY HAD TO BE LAST IN LINE (GOP DOES NOT CONSIDER MACAU  
A PORTUGUESE COLONY) AND THAT GOP WILL FULFILL ITS HISTORICAL  
AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO TIMOR; ABANDONMENT IS NOT A POSSIBILITY.

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4. SANTOS SAID AUSTRALIA AND INDONESIA DON'T WANT TO SEE TIMOR EITHER AS A FOCAL POINT OF POLITICAL PRESSURE OR TENSION OR SUBJECT TO PRECIPITATE ABANDONMENT BY GOP. GOP ASSURED AUSTRALIA AND GOI THAT PORTUGAL WILL CONTINUE ENCOMOMIC, TECHNICAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AS LONG AS THE TIMORESE FEEL IT IS NECESSARY. SANTOS CLAIMED GOP DETERMINED TO FULFILL ITS MORAL AND HISTORICAL OBLICATIONS IN TIMOR.

5. SANTOS PREDICTED AN END TO THE "ENIGMATIC PHASE" OF TIMORESE DECOLONIZATION "VERY SHORTLY," AND NOTED CURRENT QUESTION BEFORE THE GOP IS KIND AND SCOPE OF 1975 GOP AID TO TIMOR. SANTOS SAID 1975 AID WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 1974 FUNDS.

6. COMMENT: SANTOS INTERVIEW IS BASICALLY REHASH OF HIS PAST PUBLIC STATEMENTS I.E. TIMORESE ARE FREE TO DETERMINE OWN FUTURE. PORTUGUESE TIMOR GOVERNOR COL. LEMOS PIRES IS IN LISBON. DATT HAS APPOINTMENT TO SEE HIM MAR 11 AND WILL SOLICIT HIS VIEWS ON TIMOR SITUATION.  
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